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New and poorly known Clytrinae (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae) from Africa

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Abstract

Three new species of the subfamily Clytrinae (Chrysomelidae) are described: *Aspidolopha erberi* **n. sp.** from Congo, *Peploptera dieteri* **n. sp.** from South Africa, and *Peploptera erberi* **n. sp.** from South Africa. A short description of the hitherto unknown female of *Peploptera holmi* L. Medvedev, 1993 is given.
Keywords: Chrysomelidae, Clytrinae, new species, Africa, taxonomy.

Zusammenfassung

Drei neue Arten der Subfamilie Clytrinae (Chrysomelidae) werden beschrieben: *Aspidolopha erberi* **n. sp.** aus Kongo, *Peploptera dieteri* **n. sp.** aus Südafrika und *Peploptera erberi* **n. sp.** aus Südafrika. Die Merkmale des bisher unbekannten Weibchens von *Peploptera holmi* L. Medvedev, 1993 werden angegeben.

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1 Introduction

The African Clytrinae were intensively studied in the last years (Erber & Medvedev 2002, 2003a–b; Medvedev & Erber 2003; Medvedev & Kantner 2002; Medvedev & Schoeller 2001). However, the African fauna of this group is still poorly known. Three very interesting new species from different collections were intended to be described by Dr. Dieter Erber and me, but my dear friend and

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colleague deceased in February 2004. So I describe these species alone and dedicate all of them to his memory.

The descriptions of the new species are based on holotypes and, in one case, additionally on a paratype. The labelling of the types is corresponding with the dates given under "Material". Aedeagi have been prepared, macerated in KOH and fixed with syndeticon on the label of the male specimen, as usual. Female spermatheca and rectal complex have been dissected, macerated in KOH and fixed in Canada Balsam on the label.

Acronyms of depositories

LM Private collection of LEV MEDVEDEV, Moscow
SANC South African National Collections of Insects, Pretoria
SMNS Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde, Stuttgart

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2 Taxonomy

2.1 *Aspidolopha erberi* n. sp. (Figs. 1, 2, 5)

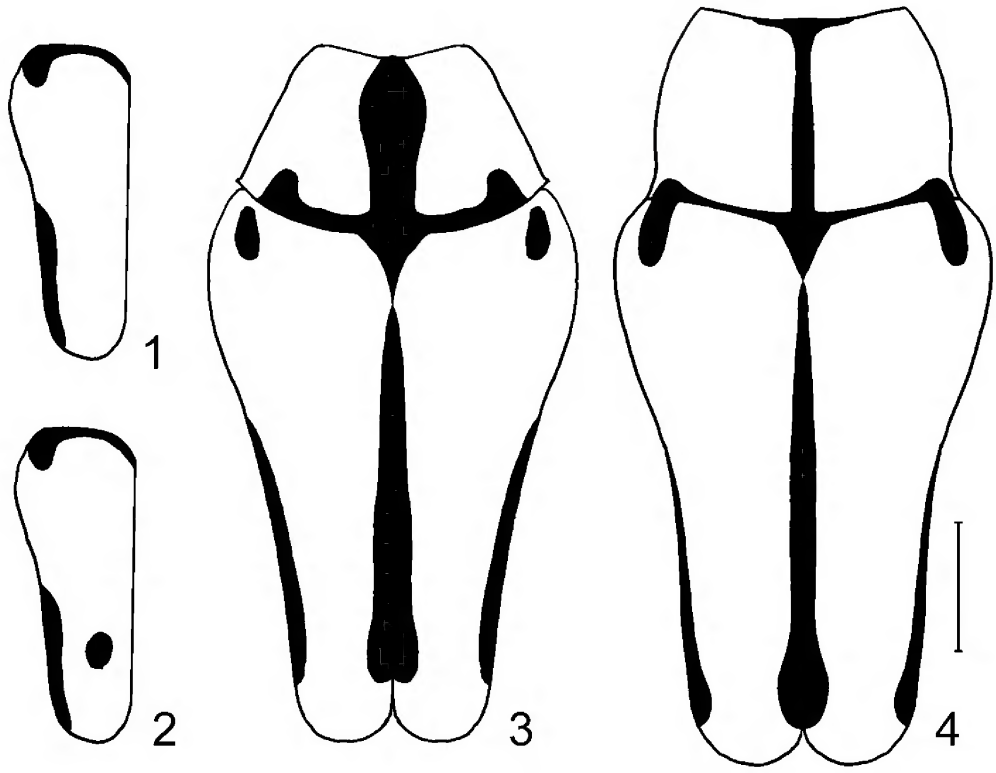
Material

Holotype (♂): Congo [Zaire], Kapiri, X.1912, Miss. Agric. (SMNS).
Paratype (♀): Congo [Zaire], Sankisia, VII.1911, Dr. BEQUAERT (LM).

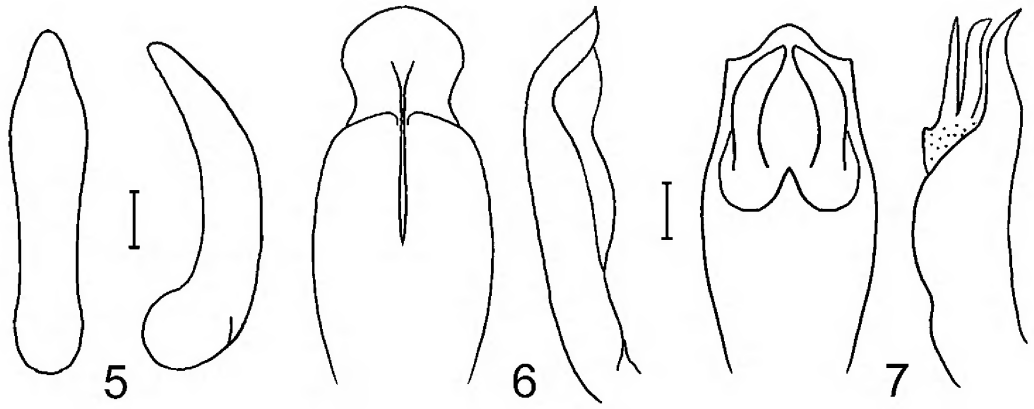
Description

Male: Dark metallic blue including abdominal tergites; labrum fulvous; antennae black with basal segments more or less dark fulvous; elytra fulvous with humeral spot and stripe along side margin starting behind elytral lobe dark violaceous (Fig. 1). – Head strongly punctate, clypeus bare, with feeble concave anterior margin, frons and vertex densely pubescent, frons as wide as transverse diameter of eye. Antennae distinctly serrate from the 5th segment, segment 1 thick and short, segment 2 moderately thick, segment 3 very short and narrow, subglobose, segment 4 feebly triangular, next segments about 1.5 times as wide as long. Prothorax 1.9 times as wide as long, narrowed anteriorly, with rounded posterior angles, hind margin almost straight, surface pubescent, roughly punctuate with very narrow interspaces. Scutellum elongate triangular, with elevated apex, densely punctuate and pubescent. Elytra 1.85 times as long as wide, strongly narrowed posteriorly, with well developed epipleural lobe, surface strongly punctate, partly in very irregular rows, interspaces of punctures convex and shining. Pygidium evenly convex, rounded on apex, distinctly punctuate, pubescent in basal half. All abdominal tergites heavily sclerotized. Underside with dense appressed pubescence. Aedeagus as in Fig. 5. Length of body 3.3 mm.

Female: Color of body dark violaceous blue; elytra with additional postmedian spot near suture (Fig. 2). – Frons broader than transverse diameter of eye. Elytra with more developed irregular rows of punctures. Length of body 3.7 mm.



Figs. 1–4. Color pattern of pronotum and elytra. – **1**. *Aspidolopha erberi* n. sp., ♂. **2**. *Aspidolopha erberi* n. sp., ♀. **3**. *Peploptera dieteri* n. sp. **4**. *Peploptera erberi* n. sp. – Scale: 1 mm.



Figs. 5–7. Aedeagus. – **5**. *Aspidolopha erberi* n. sp. **6**. *Peploptera dieteri* n. sp. **7**. *Peploptera erberi* n. sp. – Scales: 0.5 mm (5), 1 mm (6–7).

Diagnosis

Only two species of *Aspidolopha* Lacordaire, 1848 are known from Africa, both are entirely metallic blue: *Aspidolopha usumbarica* Weise, 1900 from Tanzania and *Aspidolopha metallica* Bryant, 1948 from Kenya. The new species differs well from both in having fulvous elytra, smaller size and especially a pubescent prothorax.

2.2 *Peploptera* (s. str.) *dieteri* **n. sp.** (Figs. 3, 6)

Material

Holotype (♂): South Africa: GAU PPRI, Roode plaat: grounds, near Pretoria, 25°36,7 S, 28°21,5 E, 1220 m, 16.X.1996, MILLAR/NESER/STALS / collected (by beating) from *Acacia nilotica* (Fabaceae) (SANC).

Description

Male: Head black; antennae black with fulvous basal segments; prothorax (Fig. 3) red with black basal margin and central stripe widened anteriorly; scutellum black; elytra (Fig. 3) flavous with humeral spot, sutural stripe widened posteriorly and lateral stripe on preapical part of lateral margin black, extreme apex more or less orange; abdominal tergites including pygidium and underside black; legs black with tarsi and bases of femora and tibiae fulvous. – Body moderately narrowed anteriorly and much more posteriorly. Clypeus and vertex practically impunctate, frons narrower than transverse diameter of eye, distinctly punctuate and grooved in middle. Antennae reach middle of prothorax, serrate from the 5th segment, segments 6–10 about 1.5 times as wide as long. Prothorax 1.65 times as wide as long, narrowed anteriorly, with almost straight side margins, surface shining and practically impunctate except a few punctures on basal lobe, with oblique impression on each side near hind angles. Scutellum triangular with elevated apex, impunctate. Elytra 1.4 times as long as wide, strongly narrowed to behind, not covering pygidium, with very large epipleural lobe and regular rows of punctures. Pygidium evenly convex, with narrowly rounded apex. Last abdominal sternite with large impression. Tarsal segments 1 and 2 feebly elongate. Aedeagus (Fig. 6) with broadly rounded apical lobe. Length of body 6.3 mm.

Diagnosis

Near *Peploptera florida* Lacordaire, 1848 from South Africa. The new species differs by well developed black stripe on prothorax, darkened legs and especially by the elytra strongly narrowed posteriorly and by a quite different form of the aedeagus.

2.3 *Peploptera (Monstropepla) erberi* **n. sp.** (Figs. 4, 7)

Material

Holotype (♂): South Africa, 25 km W Pretoria, Saartjiesnek (25°46′S, 27°54′E), 22.–24.XI.1997, S. BÍLÝ leg. (LM).

Description

Male: Head black; antennae black with the 4 basal segments fulvous; prothorax (Fig. 4) red with basal margin and a very narrow central stripe black; scutellum black; elytra flavous with humeral spot, sutural stripe widened on apex and lateral stripe on side margin behind epipleural lobe black (Fig. 4); abdominal tergites including pygidium and underside black; legs black with fulvous bases of tibiae. – Body broadest at base of elytra, narrowed anteriorly and especially posteriorly. Head pubescent along inner margin of eyes, densely punctuate on frons and vertex, but almost smooth on clypeus, frons with shallow impression, much wider than transverse diameter of eye. Antennae reach anterior third of prothorax, distinctly

serrate from the 5th segment, segments 6–9 about 1.5 times as wide as long. Prothorax 1.65 times as wide as long, narrowed anteriorly, with feebly arcuate side margins, which are slightly emarginated before acute posterior angles, surface with moderately dense and strong punctures and oblique impression on each side before hind angles. Scutellum triangular with truncate elevated apex, surface shining, with a few punctures. Elytra 1.5 times as wide, strongly narrowed posteriorly, not covering pygidium and preceding tergite, with very large epipleural lobe and regular rows of deep punctures. Pygidium evenly convex, narrowly rounded on apex, densely punctuate and pubescent, with feeble longitudinal ridge in apical part. Underside with thick appressed pubescence, abdomen in middle with large longitudinal cavity occupying sternites 2–5, deepened posteriorly. Anterior tarsi widened, segments 1–3 as long as wide and covered with dense more or less erect hairs; mid and posterior tarsi narrower, with segment 1 feebly elongate. Aedeagus as in Fig. 7. Length of body 6.4 mm.

Diagnosis

This species belongs to the subgenus *Monstropepla* L. Medvedev, 1993, which differs by a modified abdomen of males and is known only from South Africa (Medvedev 1993). It differs well from the hitherto single species of the subgenus, *Peploptera (Monstropepla) holmi* L. Medvedev, 1993, by much smaller size, a different color of the upperside and legs, absence of a longitudinal groove on the vertex and different form of the aedeagus, which is very modified in *Peploptera holmi*.

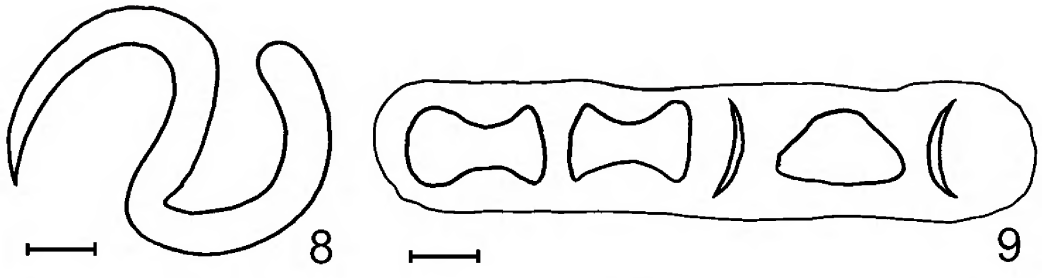
2.4 *Peploptera (Monstropepla) holmi* L. Medvedev, 1993 (Figs. 8, 9)

Material

South Africa, Transvaal, Nylsvley Nature Reserve (24°39′S, 28°42′E), 20.XI.1982, R. G. Oberprieler leg., 1 ♀ (SANC).

Note

The description of this species was based on a single male. Now I had the opportunity to study a female specimen. It differs by more parallel-sided body and almost reduced lateral black spots on the prothorax. The preparates of the spermatheca (Fig. 8) and the rectal complex ["Kotpresse" in German] (Fig. 9) were made by Dr. D. Erber.



Figs. 8–9. *Peploptera holmi* L. Medvedev, 1993, ♀. – **8**. Spermatheca. **9**. Rectal complex. – Scales: 0.1 mm.

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